

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
Water Protection Division
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY PROPOSED TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDLs) FOR WATERS AND POLLUTANTS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires each state to compile a list of those waters within its boundaries for which technology-based effluent limitations are not stringent enough to protect any water quality standard applicable to such waters. Listed waters are prioritized with respect to designated-use classifications and the severity of pollution. In accordance with this prioritization, states are then required to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for those listed waters. The TMDL process establishes the allowable loadings of pollutants or other quantifiable parameters for a waterbody based on the relationship between pollution sources and in-stream water quality conditions, so that states can establish water quality based controls to reduce pollution from both point and non-point sources and restore and maintain the quality of their water resources (USEPA, 1991).

On September 30, 2007, EPA Region 4 published a public notice which announced the availability of EPA's proposed TMDLs for waterbodies in the Pensacola Basin in Florida, and requested comments from the public on those proposed TMDLs. Since the 2007 public notice, these TMDLs have been revised. The revised, proposed TMDL reports being made available today were developed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). EPA is proposing these TMDLs in order to meet consent decree requirements pursuant to the Consent Decree entered in the case of Florida Wildlife Federation, et al. v. Carol Browner, et al., Case No. 98-356-CIV-Stafford. The TMDLs as currently proposed reflect revisions that were deemed appropriate by EPA and/or the FDEP to address new information that has been received since September 30, 2007, including public comments received in response to EPA's September 30, 2007 public notice. EPA, hereby, withdraws the previously proposed TMDLs. Persons who believe that previously-submitted comments have not been adequately addressed by EPA and/or FDEP are encouraged to resubmit those comments in writing by no later than January 29, 2013. Prior to finalizing these TMDLs, EPA will consider only those timely, written comments provided in response to this public notice.

The waterbody impairments on Florida's 303(d) list that are addressed by the proposed TMDLs are listed below.

River Basin	Waterbody Name	Waterbody Identification (WBID) Number	§303(d) List Pollutant(s)
Pensacola	Judges Bayou	493A	Nutrients & Dissolved Oxygen
Pensacola	Judges Bayou	493B	Nutrient
Pensacola	North Escambia Bay	548AA	Nutrient
Upper East Coast	Tomoka River	2634	Nutrient

Indian River Lagoon	Sykes Creek/Barge Canal	3044B	Nutrient
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Persons wishing to comment on the proposed TMDLs or to offer new data or information regarding the proposed TMDLs are invited to submit the same in writing or electronically (preferred method being electronic copies of Microsoft Word documents) to cole.sibyl@epa.gov within 60 days of this notice, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Water Protection Division, 61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960, ATTENTION: Ms. Sibyl Cole, Pollution Control and Implementation Branch. It is possible that formats other than Microsoft Word may not be properly converted during the response process.

A copy of each of the proposed TMDLs can be obtained through the Internet or by contacting Ms. Cole at (404) 562-9437 or via electronic mail at cole.sibyl@epa.gov. The URL address for the proposed TMDLs is: <http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/tmdl/florida/>. The proposed TMDLs and supporting documents, including technical information, data, and analyses, may be reviewed at 61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia, between the hours of 8 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Persons wishing to review this information should contact Ms. Cole to schedule a time for that review.

/s/

James D. Giattina
Director
Water Protection Division
Region 4
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

11/30/2012

Date